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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3704
INFO RUEHHE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE
RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE
RUCNSOM/SOMALIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHKK/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 1368
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0439

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 001851

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/SPG, AF/E. AF/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/2019

TAGS: **PREL SU SO MR EG**

SUBJECT: AFRICAN AFFAIRS DISCUSSIONS AT THE ARAB LEAGUE
MINISTERIAL

REF: A. CAIRO 1616 B. CAIRO 208 Classified By: Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs Donald A. Blome for reasons 1.4 (b) and (c)
1.(C) Key Points: -- The Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs told Arab League (AL) foreign ministers during the September 9-10 ministerial meeting that the Arab League is working closely with the African Union on Sudan, Somalia, and Mauritania. Our contacts tell us the League would like to see the AU and AL work together to address the challenges in the region.
2.(C) Comment: The Arab League is working closely with the African Union on Sudan, Somalia, and Mauritania. Our contacts tell us the League would like to see the AU and AL work together to address the challenges in the region.
3.(C) Zeid Al Sabban, African Affairs advisor to AL SYG Amr Moussa, told us on September 15 that Sudan, Somalia, and Mauritania were the principal focus of the ministerial. He stated that all ministers agreed South Sudan and Somalia were the top priorities.
4.(C) Al Sabban said the ministers expressed concern about North-South and South-South problems. He stated that all ministers agreed South Sudan and Somalia were the top priorities.
5.(C) Al Sabban expressed frustration that the Somali FM did not attend the ministerial. He stated that Somalia "deserved more attention" at the ministerial.
6. Al Sabban believes things are improving in Mauritania (reftel B). He said the AL is committed to protecting the "democratic regime" of General Idriss Ould Cheikh Abdallahi.